

NOON BIBLE STUDY: EPHESIANS 4 (PT 2)

EPHESIANS SO FAR..

- 1 - PRAISE FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE
- 2 - WHO WE WERE, WHO WE ARE NOW
- 3 - THE MYSTERY: JEW AND GENTILE FELLOW HEIRS, CHILDREN OF GOD
- 4 - OUR RESPONSE TO CHAPTERS 1-3 -
 - (1) KEEP THE UNITY GOD CREATED (V. 1-16)
 - (2) LIVE A NEW WAY (V. 17-32)

EPHESIANS 4:17-24 - LAYING ASIDE OLD LIFE

WALK: LIFESTYLE, MANNER OF LIFE

- DO NOT LIVE LIKE YOU USED TO LIVE, BEFORE YOU KNEW GOD. JUST LIKE THE "GENTILES" AROUND YOU.

CHARACTERISTICS OF OLD LIFE:

JUST AS THE GENTILES WALK
FUTILITY OF THEIR MIND
DARKENED IN UNDERSTANDING
EXCLUDED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD BECAUSE OF IGNORANCE
CALLOUS (CEASE FROM FEELING PAIN)
GIVEN OVER TO SENSUALITY, FOR THE PRACTICE OF EVERY KIND OF IMPURITY, AND GREEDY TO DO SO.
SENSUALITY: RELATING TO OR CONSISTING IN THE GRATIFICATION OF THE SENSES OR THE INDULGENCE OF APPETITE (MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY)

"OLD SELF" - OLD WAY OF LIVING. OLD PATTERN OF LIFE.

Q - HOW DO YOU "LAY ASIDE THE OLD SELF"?

THE THEME OF THE GOSPEL IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS GOD'S RESTORATIVE PLAN. THROUGH THE GOSPEL AND BY THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT, A PERSON CAN BE MADE "NEW" IN ADVANCE OF THE COMPLETE "NEWNESS" THAT WILL BREAK OUT AT THE RETURN OF JESUS TO THE EARTH. YOU HEAR IN PAUL'S LETTERS THIS CONCEPT OF "NEW", "RENEWED", "RESTORED" ETC. HE HAS THIS VIEW IN MIND.

THE WAY THAT THE CHRISTIAN IS "RENEWED" IS THROUGH THINKING DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE WORLD AROUND THEM. THROUGH REPENTANCE (LITERALLY: THE CHANGING OF ONE'S MIND) THEY ARE GIVEN A NEW SYSTEM IN WHICH THEY CAN VIEW THE WORLD AND THEIR ACTIONS FLOW FROM THIS MINDSET. THEN THE PROCESS OF REJECTING THE OLD AND EMBRACING THE NEW BEGINS.

EPHESIANS 4:25-32 - EMBRACE THE NEW WAY

THESE ACTIONS/BEHAVIORS ARE GOOD PICTURES OF WHAT "REPENTANCE" LOOKS LIKE. NO LONGER DOING "A", YOU NOW DO "B".

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE OLD LIFE:

LAY ASIDE FALSEHOOD → SPEAK TRUTH (V. 25)

BE ANGRY → DO NOT SIN (V. 26)

DO NOT LET THE SUN GO DOWN ON YOUR ANGER (HAVE BOUNDARIES, LIMITS AND GOVERNORS) (V. 26)

DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL AN OPPORTUNITY (ACCESS) (V. 27)

DON'T STEAL → WORK TO HAVE GIVE (V. 28)

NO UNWHOLESOME WORDS → ONLY WORDS WHICH EDIFY AND GIVE GRACE (V. 29)

"UNWHOLESOME" - GREEK: "SAPROS" - ROTTEN

"EDIFICATION" - GREEK: "OIKODOME" - THE ACT OF BUILDING

DON'T GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT...NLT: "AND DO NOT BRING SORROW TO GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT BY THE WAY YOU LIVE..." (V. 30)

ALL BITTERNESS, WRATH, ANGER, CLAMOR, SLANDER, AND ALL MALICE PUT AWAY (V. 31)

BITTERNESS - EXHIBITING INTENSE ANIMOSITY, MARKED BY CYNICISM, ANGRY AND UNHAPPY BECAUSE OF UNFAIR TREATMENT

CLAMOR - A LOUD CONTINUOUS NOISE (SUCH AS THE NOISE MADE WHEN MANY PEOPLE ARE TALKING OR SHOUTING). NOISY SHOUTING

SLANDER - TO MAKE A FALSE SPOKEN STATEMENT THAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO HAVE A BAD OPINION OF SOMEONE

MALICE - DESIRE TO CAUSE PAIN, INJURY, OR DISTRESS TO ANOTHER

BE KIND, TENDER-HEARTED, FORGIVING, JUST AS GOD IN CHRIST HAS FORGIVEN YOU. (V. 32)

EPHESIANS 5:1-21